

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 09295 091749Z

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8914

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMNAVTEL WASHDC

NAVCOMSTA NAPLES

USNMR SHAPE

USDOCOSOUTH

USMISSION NATO

CNO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 09295

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IT

SUBJECT: SATELLITE GROUND TERMINAL AT LAGO DI PATRIA

REFS: A. ROME 10404; B. STATE 161006; C. CINCUSNAVEUR 271946Z

NOV 74 (NOTAL)

1. NAVCOMSTA NAPLES RECENTLY QUERIED EMBASSY AS TO STATUS OF OUR REQUEST THAT GOI GIVE FORMAL APPROVAL TO THIS PROJECT. OUR UNDERSTANDING OF REFTELS A AND B IS THAT THE DEPARTMENT WAS TO PROVIDE US WITH LANGUAGE FOR EXCHANGE OF NOTES AFTER SURVEYS HAD BEEN CONDUCTED.

2. BASED ON TELCONS WITH NAVCOMSTA NAPLES, EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT SITE PREPARATION IS NOW SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON MAY 1, 1975. GRADING, ETC. IS TO TAKE PLACE ON LAND ALREADY CONSIGNDED TO NATO FOR RELATED USE, AND LOCAL NATO OFFICIALS ARE SATISFIED WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 ROME 09295 091749Z

PLANS. FUNDS FOR SITE PREPARATION ARE INCLUDED IN WORLD WIDE

CONTRACTS SIGNED IN WASHINGTON WHICH INCLUDE PENALTY CLAUSES
IF VARIOUS PHASES OF PROJECT ARE NOT STARTED BEFORE STIPULATED
DATES. SITE PREPARATION PLANS AS SPELLED OUT ABOVE ARE
ACCEPTABLE TO EMBASSY WITH PROVISO THAT ABOVE GROUND
CONSTRUCTION OF SATELLITE TERMINAL CANNOT BEGIN PRIOR TO RECEIPT
OF FORMAL GOI APPROVAL OF PROJECT.

3. TO HELP AVOID POTENTIALLY COSTLY AND FRUSTRATING DELAYS,
EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING DRAFT TEXT FOR EXCHANGE OF
NOTES SOONEST. GIVEN VERY INDEFINITE STATE OF ITALIAN PLANNING
FOR PROPOSED CIVIL AIRPORT AT LAGO DI PATRIA, EMBASSY SUGGESTS
WISEST COURSE MIGHT BE FOR NOTE TO SIMPLY PROMISE TO CORRECT
AT US EXPENSE FUTURE INTERFERENCE WITH CIVILIAN AIRPORT CAUSED
BY THIS SATELLITE TERMINAL.

4. FYI. MOD HAS RECENTLY APPROVED AT MILITARY-TO-MILITARY
LEVEL THE INSTALLATION OF MICROWAVE ANTENNA EQUIPMENT ALSO
AT LAGO DI PATRIA AS REQUESTED BY CINCUSNAVEUR IN REFTEL C.
APPROVAL INCLUDED CONDITION THAT EQUIPMENT MUST GO IN
PRE-EXISTING USN BUILDING. NAVCOMSTA POINTED OUT THAT THIS
MICROWAVE ANTENNA (ESPECIALLY INSTALLED IN PRE-EXISTING
BUILDING) WOULD NOT POSE SAME POTENTIAL FOR INTERFERENCE
WITH AIRPORT AS DOES THE APPROXIMATELY 80-FOOT TALL
SATELLITE TERMINAL TOWER. END FYI. VOLPE

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